

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 27 and 34 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-38 are pending.

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Clark (US 4,215,872). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the chain guide moves laterally relative to the base member. Claim 27 has been amended to clarify that the bracket is structured to accommodate a rear derailleur of the type having a base member, a chain guide, and a coupling mechanism coupled between the base member and the chain guide so that the chain guide moves laterally relative to the base member. Insofar as Clark's barrel (64) is interpreted to be a base member, then Clark's chain guide (38) does not move laterally relative to barrel (64). Clark neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in amended claims 1 and 27.

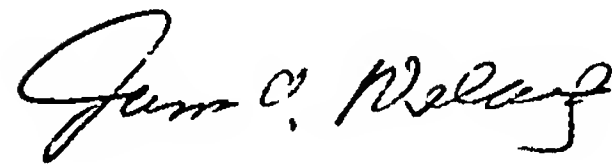
Claims 1-38 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-26 of copending application No. 10/605,832. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed. The office action merely states that the claims are obvious variants in breadth and scope without performing any analysis. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for claims 1-38. In any event, the claims in copending Application No. 10/605,382 recite a rotation restriction mechanism, and there is no disclosure or suggestion in the prior art to eliminate such a mechanism from the device claimed in that application.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and obviousness-type double patenting have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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